[1st November 1932

A.—(*a*) All Deputy Collectors in charge of divisions in which estates lie dispose of suits, etc., under the Madras Estates Land Act. There were three Deputy Collectors in charge of divisions in each of the four districts of Ganjam, Vizagapatam, East Godavari and West Godavari on 15th August 1932.

(*b*) & (*c*) 9 B.A.'s,
1 B.A., B.L.,
1 B.A., LL.B., and Bar.-at-Law, and
1 Matriculate.

(*d*) No.

Alleged cruelty of village officials of the Udayarpalayam zamindari.

* 229 *Q.*—Mr. V. T. Arasu: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representations from the ryots of the Udayarpalayam zamindari making serious allegations of extortion and cruelty by the village officials in that zamindari;

(*b*) whether the Government or the Board of Revenue have caused any enquiries to be made into those allegations; and

(*c*) if so, what action the Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The Government have received no representations.

TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS

Provincial Gazetteers

District Gazettes.

* 230 *Q.*—Mr. V. T. Arasu: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the price of the District Gazettes was raised to the present level somewhere about the year 1915 on account of the increase in the cost of stationery;

(*b*) whether the cost of stationery has not since come down; and

(*c*) if it has, why the Government could not find their way to reduce the price of the Gazette to the pre-war level?

A.—(*a*) The rates of subscription to District Gazettes were fixed in 1918 on the basis of a fair average price and not with reference to the high price of paper which obtained at the time.

(*b*) Yes, it has decreased.

(*c*) The cost of stationery represents only about 5 per cent of the cost of production. The cost of labour which constitutes the greater part of the cost of production has increased. The subscriptions are largely absorbed by postal charges (which also have risen) and do not cover

the cost of production and distribution. The Retrenchment Committee noticed this and suggested that the question of raising the present rates should be examined. This question was examined. It was suggested to the Government that postal charges should be levied in addition to the subscription. The Government, however, preferred to raise the rates of subscription by 50 per cent and to supply the Gazettes post-free as at present, and issued orders accordingly on 20th September 1932.

Public Service

Madras Services Commission examinations.

*231 *Q.*—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether every candidate who applies for the Madras Public Services Commission examination has to send along with the application a medical certificate of physical fitness and if so, the number of applications received during the year ending 31st March 1932 and the number of applicants actually entertained in the service during the year 1930–31; and

(*b*) the average number of vacancies that generally arise in a year?

A.—(*a*) Examinations are held only for recruitment to clerical posts and to Assistant Surgeon's posts. Every candidate for admission to these examinations has to send a medical certificate. In all 3,262 applications were received during the year ending the 31st March 1932. The first examinations were held for clerical posts in March 1931 and for Assistant Surgeon's posts after the close of 1930–31 and the results of the examination for clerical posts were published in July 1931.

(*b*) The number of anticipated vacancies of clerkships, etc., (Madras Ministerial Service) was 1,750 in 1931 and 763 in 1932. Owing to retrenchment no vacancies necessitating any examination are expected to arise in the Assistant Surgeon's posts.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"May I know from the hon. Member how many out of the 3,262 applicants that applied for appointment were appointed?"

The hon. Sir ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL:—"I must ask for notice."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I think the number of persons appointed would be very small and to ask all applicants to produce a medical certificate of fitness whether or not they are going to be appointed is really a hardship to them. May not their names be printed in the eligibility list subject to production of certificate when appointed?"